

State Support of Public Libraries

Proposed Model

Explanation of Model

- Every three years, there is an inclusive process to determine the core services for State Aid and the associated benchmarks to measure its success. The core services are divided into either those provided to all libraries statewide via the Library of Michigan, or those eligible via local expenditure using State Aid funds.
- The portion of State Aid allocated to the statewide core services is designed particularly (although not exclusively) for the benefit of public libraries and their patrons, i.e. statewide delivery to public libraries or MeL databases selected for broad appeal to the general user.
- The initial statewide core services to be partially funded by State Aid are: MeL databases; MeLCat; and Delivery. The initial core services eligible for State Aid expenditure by public libraries are:
 - Connectivity/broadband
 - Technology support
 - Awareness/promotion of MeL and other library services
 - Training
 - Costs associated with participation in/enhancement of statewide core services (such as locally added databases, staff costs for MeLCat participation, enhanced delivery services, etc.)
- The core services eligible for local expenditure using State Aid funds may be purchased from collaborative agencies (not-for-profits), commercial vendors/consultants, or library cooperatives. Public libraries that choose to utilize coop services will need to sign long-term contracts for services so that the library cooperatives are able to plan for sustainability.
- In order for the library cooperatives to transition to a self-sustaining business model (i.e. determine costs for eligible core services and arrange for a menu of "a la carte" value added services, along with contract terms and fee structures), there will be a temporary subsidy paid to those library cooperatives that choose to transition to the new model. This subsidy will come from State Aid to Public Libraries.
- The State Aid annual report will remain the tool for public libraries to apply for State Aid funds.
- The initial benchmarks used to measure the success of State Aid to public libraries will be:
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Efficiency
 - Equity
- Specific measurements will be devised for each benchmark. Public libraries and library cooperatives receiving the temporary subsidy from State Aid will be responsible for reporting back to the Library of Michigan regarding these benchmarks. This reporting may be folded into the State Aid annual report over time.